THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Rule 28 of the Model Rules, 2001 framed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for setting up of children homes and specifies the physical infrastructure of homes like separate facilities according to age group of children, standard of accommodation, adequate lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling arrangements, drinking water and toilets and other facilities like clothing and bedding, nutrition, medical facilities, education, vocational training, counselling, recreation facilities, which are to be provided to the children staying in these homes. All the State Government run homes as well as Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) run homes under the above said Act, are run as per the provisions of the Act and Rules.

(b) and (c) The State Governments review and monitor the day to day functioning of those homes through State, District or City level Inspection Teams. These teams are constituted by the State Government on the recommendation of the Selection Committee under Rule 29 of the Model Rules. The teams share the information with all concerned. As and when Central Government calls for information, the State Governments pass on this information.

The Ministry has got monitoring and inspection of the homes conducted recently through its officials, State Governments and Voluntary Organisations, etc. to review the basic facilities available in these homes as well as implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 in the State.

(d) This Ministry does not maintain such record. However, if any complaint is received in the Ministry, it is immediately taken up with concerned State Governments for appropriate action.

Short stay homes and family counselling centres

2902. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to open short stay homes and family counselling centres in each district of the country for providing shelters to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such centres likely to be opened during the current financial year; and

(d) the time fixed to cover all the districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Central Social Welfare Board implements the Schemes of Short Stay Homes and Family Counselling Centres. As per the report of the Working Group on Empowerment of Women for the Eleventh Plan, it is proposed to merge the Short Stay Homes and Swadhar Homes Schemes and have one Swadhar Home in each district in the Eleventh Plan.

The Central Social Welfare Board proposes to have at least 2 Family Counselling Centres for Women in all districts by the end of Eleventh Plan. 60 new Family Counselling Centres will be opened during 2007-08.

Inter-country adoption rules

2903. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to relax the rules governing inter-country adoption to make it simpler for foreigners to provide new homes to Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to control exploitation of such adopted children by NRIs and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to simplify the adoption process for everyone, including foreigners, the existing Guidelines for adoption have been reviewed based on suggestions received, for appropriate consideration.

(c) The Guidelines for adoption include mechanisms to control exploitation of adopted children by NRIs and others.

Malnutrition among children

2904. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children suffering from malnutrition in the country;

(b) how far the position has worsened since census of 2001;

(c) whether it is a fact that low birth weight is high in the country in comparison to other South Asian countries on the basis of human development report;

(d) whether the situation is improving from year-to-year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - 3 (2005-06), conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 45.9% children are suffering from malnutrition in the country.

(b) After the census of 2001, only National Family Health Survey - 3 has been conducted in year 2005-06. However, as per NFHS, the extent of malnutrition among children declined from 52% in 1992-93 to 45.9% in 2005-06.

(c) to (e) As per the Human Development Report, 2006 the prevalence of low birth weight in India is 30% which is higher in comparison to other South Asian Countries except Bangladesh attached herewith as a Statement (*See* below). There is no nationally representative survey incorporating weight at birth.